

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03217 120714Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIEP-01 ACDA-05 OPR-02

A-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 HEW-02 AID-05 SSO-00 /090 W

----- 110298

R 120530Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9617

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 3217

THE FOLLOWING MSG RECD FROM KARACHI DATED 11APR75 TO ISLAMABAD
AND LAHORE IS H/W RPTD FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE:

P R 111009Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1468

INFO RUSBQD/AMCONSUL LAHORE 4533

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PK

SUBJECT: KARACHI REACTION TO PRICE RISE

REF: KARACHI 0633

1. DESPITE OFFICIAL STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN APRIL 11 DAWN THAT
"THE SITUATION IN KARACHI REMAINED COMPLETELY NORMAL

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YESTERDAY... NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED", THERE

HAVE BEEN SOME MINOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND MORE EXAGGERATED RUMORS.

2. FOLLOWING THE SHIPOWNERS' COLLEGE INCIDENT APRIL 9 INVOLVING STUDENTS, BUS DRIVERS, AND POLICE, WHICH WAS UNRELATED TO ANNOUNCED PRICE RISE, THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT INDICATING TWO STUDENTS WERE INJURED DID NOT RPT NOT STILL RUMORS THAT TWO TO FOUR STUDENTS HAD IN FACT BEEN KILLED BY POLICE. ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH, THREE DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTING PRICE RISES IN NAZIMABAD AREA OF KARACHI (A REFUGEE/OPPOSITION STRONGHOLD) WERE SHOT BY POLICE AND KILLED APRIL 10. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OR PRESS REPORTING OF THIS ALLEGED INCIDENT. A WILDCAT STRIKE BY THE MAINTENANCE STAFF AT KARACHI CANTONMENT STATION APRIL 10 FIZZLED AFTER THREE HOURS.

3. FOLLOWING TOUR OF USUAL KARACHI'S TROUBLE SPOTS APRIL 11, CONGEN LOCAL EMPLOYEE REPORTED INCIDENTS ONLY IN NAZIMABAD AND NEIGHBORING LIAQUATABAD AREAS OF KARACHI. IN NAZIMABAD, ABOUT 30 STUDENTS STONED BUSES AND FORCED THEM TO DETOUR. AT LIAQUATABAD, SOME 200 STUDENTS HAD OCCUPIED A ROUNDABOUT AND WERE ALTERNATINGLY LISTENING TO SPEECHES AND STONING BUSES, WHICH THEN CHANGED TO SAFER ROUTES. THE AFTERNOON PRESS--NOT RPT NOT A PARTICULARLY RELIABLE SOURCE--REPORTED SIMILAR INCIDENTS NEAR JINNAH'S TOMB APRIL 11. THREE POLICE VANS WERE REPORTED AT GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, NAZIMABAD, BUT NO INCIDENTS.

4. THERE WAS NO ORGANIZED RESPONSE BY MID-DAY TO JUI LEADER MUFTI MAHMOOD'S CALL TO OBSERVE APRIL 11 AS "BLACK DAY" TO PROTEST PRICE RISES. MOST OBSERVERS FEEL KHATIBS (PREACHERS) IN THE FEW JUI-CONTROLLED MOSQUES WILL SPEAK AGAINST THE GOP ACTION AND MOVE RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING IT. THERE ARE SOME PREDICTIONS THAT FURTHER TROUBLE WILL ERUPT FOLLOWING FRIDAY PRAYERS TODAY.

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